



**Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club**

# HI-Q

**Thunder Bay, Ontario**

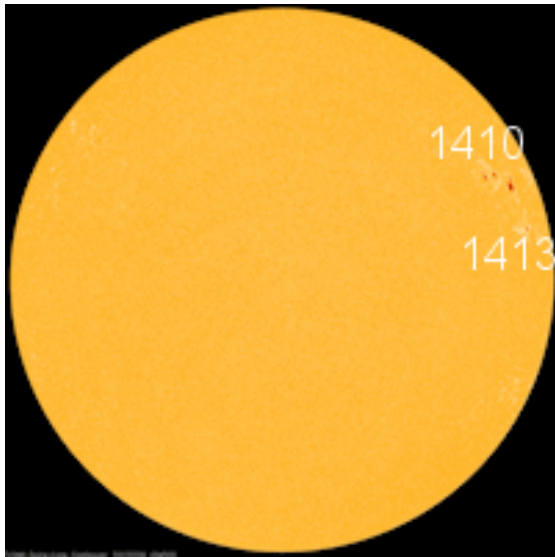


Volume 78

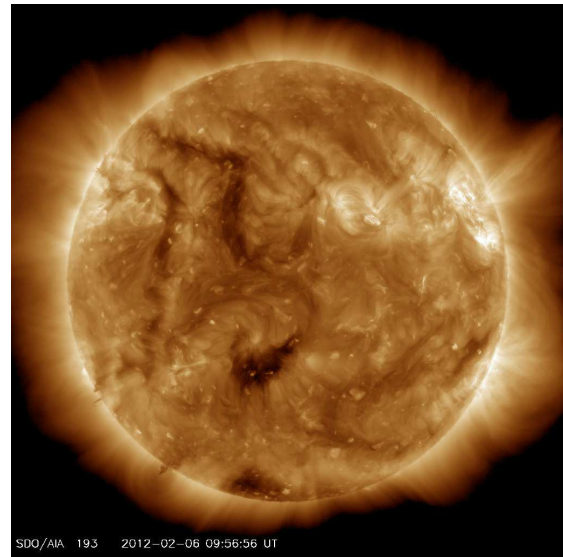
**February 2012**

Issue 2

**The Sun is Coming Back!**



As any HF enthusiast will tell you...things are getting better. From spotless just a short while ago to a sunspot number of 37 (Feb 6th). The above photo (from [www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com)) shows two groups of spots on the top right limb of the sun.



This image (SDO/AIA) reveals a deep coronal hole and the solar wind from this feature will be hitting us around the 10th. Expect aurora activity then. Check out <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/> for more info on spaceweather and sun activity

## The Giant Cometh

The 35th Annual Sleeping Giant Loppet (Sibley Ski Tour) will be held this year on Saturday, March 3, 2012. The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club has participated in every one of the ski tours and I hope this year is no exception. If you are available and would like to help out, please let Norm Bell VE3XRC know. Thanks.

In order to tidy up the draft for the next meeting of the sub working group, a weekend meeting of the drafting group will be held. At the time of writing the NOC No Change advocates steadfastly maintain their positions.

Only 3 weeks left!

Source: Radio Society of Great Britain - Colin Thomas G3PSM

## A New Amateur Band?

Progress was made with a compromise proposal on agenda item 1.23, drafted to take into consideration the views of those for and those against an amateur service allocation around 500kHz. This proposal suggests a 7kHz segment between 472-479kHz, very close to the CEPT position of 472-480kHz. Initial indications are that this could be acceptable to many administrations and regional organisations. However, various meetings need to take place to have these formally accepted.

[www.larclub.ca](http://www.larclub.ca)



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**LARC SENATE**

Keith Fiske VE3JQ  
Pat Doherty VE3PD  
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS  
Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD  
Terry Stewardson VA3LU  
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

**LARC EXECUTIVE**

**President:**

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

**Vice President**

Joe Coghlan VE3TBX

**Treasurer**

Paul Curtin VA3PDC

**Secretary**

Jeff Cederwall VE3JTD

**Directors**

Lori Bedford VE3VAI  
Bill Unger VE3XT  
Bob Hanson VE3RVA  
Mark Vaillant VA3MVR

**LARC Emergency Coordinator**

Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628

**ARES District Emergency  
Coordinator**

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

**CANWARN**

VA3JMS John 767-3631  
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**ABOUT US**

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to [ve3snw@shaw.ca](mailto:ve3snw@shaw.ca)

**FREE TO GOOD HOME**

Anyone interested in a box of mid-90s magazines - 73, QST, Canadian Amateur, etc.? Sixty-plus magazines headed for the recycler if nobody wants them. At a price guaranteed to please any ham - free! Act quickly. Rob VE3FLB 344-7845

Just have been advised that the VE3FW@RAC email address has been dropped by RAC.



**LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS**

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2

442.075 (+5 MHz)**pl 100**  
144.390 APRS

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

**Minutes of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club**

**Date: January 12, 2012**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M., President Randy Gottfred VA3OJ presiding.

**1. Guest Speaker:** Bill Unger VE3XT

Bill gave a very informative presentation on propagation. Bill encourages people too get on the bands and call CQ. This is an age old trick of finding out if the bands are open. He also talked about books and computer programs that help predict sunspots and propagation. A demonstration of using various receivers that report stations that have been heard online. This allow for an accurate representation of propagation.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** Paul Curtin VA3PDC  
Motion to accept the report was made by Paul Curtin VA3PDC and seconded by Jeff Cederwall VE3JTD. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Meeting Minutes:** Jeff Cederwall VE3JTD  
Motion to accept the report was made by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP and seconded by Jeff Cederwall VE3JTD. The motion was passed unanimously.

**4. Public Service,** Canwarn: John Sacek  
VA3JMS unable to attend

**5. Repeater News:** Randy Gottfred VE3OJ  
a. Upsala: Randy reports that a crew will be going to Upsala on January 14, 2012 hopefully it will be working when they leave.

**6. RAC Report:** Bill Unger VE3XT  
Bill reports that there has been an increase in membership for the last 6 months. He also reports that Geoff Bawden VE4BAW will be attending the ARRL leaders convention. There has been no reply from the MTO as of yet on the subject of detracted driving legislature. Bill asks that all silent keys or changes of address be reported to industry Canada at 1-888-789-3333

**7. ARES:**  
Brad Harris VE3MXJ Brad was unable to attend

**8. Hymer's Fair 100th Anniversary:** Bob Hansen VE3RVA

Bill Unger VE3XT will get the special events call station. A letter on the historical importance of the fair will be written for the application.

**9. Trailer Report:** Bob Hansen VE3RVA  
The 2011 annual trailer report will be available by April 2012

**10. CNIB donation:** Paul Curtin VA3PDC  
The customary donation of \$100 was made.

**11. New Business:**

a. John Beargrease Sled dog race: Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

Randy reports that the race witch normally takes place on January 31st may be cancelled due to a lack of snow. This race is a qualifier for the world famous Iditarod Sled dog race in March.

b. Boundary Waters Amateur Radio Club: Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

All repeaters under this clubs care now have a tone of 151.4Hz tone. Specifically Portage Prairie, Gunflint Trail, Maple Hill, and Sawbill.

c. FYBO – Winter field day:  
The event will happen on February 4, 2012 it will take place behind the 55 plus centre between ( am. and 2 pm. All are welcome to attend.

d. QSL cards from the 75th anniversary were passed around.

**12. 50/50 draw:** Joe Coghlan VE3TBX won!

The motion to adjourn the meeting made by Jeff Cederwall VE3JTD and seconded by George Dow VE3DOW

The meeting was adjourned at 835 P.M.

PREZ SAYZ - RANDY VA3OJ

Good Day

Welcome to the early version of spring. If you have not spent your hard earned money on a winter getaway, then you have been enjoying some very mild temperatures in the month of January and February. I often wonder if there are major changes coming and we just can't see them. But one thing for sure is that the days are getting longer. Just look to the east at sunrise or west at sunset and you can check your watch to see that the light is definitely staying longer.

I mentioned in last month's note that Hi Q may not have been sent out to some people. That was an error on my part for which I would like to apologize. There has been some discussion over time as to whether we get things for free and how does it affect us as a group. I guess that it results from the fact that the club offers benefits that are or were financed through club dues. These yearly dues are collected to help offset some of the expenses that occur over the year. Our membership numbers have been dropping over the years. The average age of our group is getting up there and some have found new hobbies. Some may find that financial times we are in are taxing the household income. This is happening to all service groups that I have been talking to in regards to ways of getting new and old members to join. We have always had open repeaters, club functions, newsletters and it is my hope that it stays that way. We try to involve as many members in the day to day events that we participate in. No one should feel that they are not welcome.

I am going to state my personal feelings on this. I joined this hobby years ago because I was interested in radio. I have never regretted making that choice. I have many very good friends that I have made over the years and would not trade that for anything. I ran for this appointment because I wanted to make a difference. I pay my dues to the LARC because I want to be member. I enjoy getting HIQ and contributing to it. I am thankful that we have some very talented people in our group that are very giving of their time to do the newsletter, fix the repeaters and put on the events that we participate in and I will not take them for granted. As a member, I am thankful that we have members that are active in the group and support our causes and help out in their own ways. This is what makes us strong. I want to belong to this club not because of what I get. I want to belong because I am crazy about amateur radio and all the things that it means to me.

I keep reminding myself that this is just a hobby. I like the hobby and I back the hobby. Until the day comes, when SK follows my name, I will embrace it and enjoy it the best that I can. I've got some room for passengers.....

**Lakehead Amateur Radio Club**

**December Treasurers Report**

**Balance January 01 2012    \$367.58**

**Income**

nil

**Total Income \$0.00**

**Expenses**

Jan 10	Telephone YQT	\$47.96
Jan 10	Telephone cell	\$0.57
Jan 31	Service charge	\$2.00

**Total Expenses                      \$50.53**

**Balance January 31 2012            \$317.05**

**Trailer Account**

**Previous Balance                      \$783.74**

**Income**

Jan 31	Interest	\$0.07
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**Expenses**

Nil

**Balance in Trailer Account        \$783.81**

**Term Account**

**Balance January 01 2012            \$3,013.59**

**Interest January 08 2012          \$0.99**

**Balance January 31 2012          \$3014.6**

**Paul Curtin**

**VA3PDC**

**Treasurer**

## North East Ontario Regional Directors Report for February, 2012



Some Amateurs have been asking about distracted driving so here is a status report on the exemption that RAC is seeking for Ontario Amateurs. You will remember last year Steve Pengelly, VE3STV, Jeff Stewart, VE3WXM and I made a presentation to MTO officials requesting an exemption for Amateurs from Ontario Legislation 366/09. The MTO officials asked for some time to think this through and made a commitment to contact us in early 2012. We expect to hear from them in the next several months. At the moment we are advising all Ontario Amateurs to wait for a reply from MTO. If the reply is in our favour, end of story. If not we have several ideas in the works. They include but are not limited to, targeting MPP's, and a letter writing campaign from 3<sup>rd</sup> party groups, who we support with our province wide communications infrastructure at no cost to the taxpayer. Stay tuned.

The Committee to reform the Ontario's Field Services has now finished its report and it is in the hands of Doug Mercer, VO1DTM. Watch for an official RAC bulletin from him on the details in the next while. I will talk more about this next month.

As I have mentioned in the last several Directors reports membership in RAC is actually increasing. Again slowly but it is increasing. Membership in the Mapleleaf Membership category is at 140 members. I would like to thank all those members who have renewed or rejoined Radio Amateurs of Canada at either membership level. I believe it shows Canadian Amateurs understand the need for a strong national organization to speak for all Canadian Amateurs.

While the books for 2011 have not gone to the auditors yet, we will end the year in the black and are budgeting for the same in 2012. It should come as no surprise that RAC was "fiscally challenged" for the last few years. We have turned this situation around and RAC is on its way to economic stability.

We are still looking for a Treasurer for RAC. If you have a professional certification and are familiar with Quick Books please contact me.

Finally one of my favourite operating events is coming up on February 4. It's the Freeze Your Buns Off QRP event. This year we will be operating in the back field of the North West Ontario Seniors Amateur Radio Club station at the 55+ Center in Thunder Bay. Please give a listen for VE3XT who will be operating from my favourite snow bank.

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at [ve3xt@rac.ca](mailto:ve3xt@rac.ca).

Bill VE3XT  
North East Ontario Regional Director  
Radio Amateurs of Canada

January 14, 2012

## Second Annual Report for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club's Communications Trailer June 12, 2011

*Submissions to HI-Q*

The total operating hours for the communications trailer in public service was 27 hours

The total distance the trailer travelled was 195 km or 117 miles

There were no major operating problems with the trailer but there were some repairs made to the trailer in 2011

- 1) Two new tires and one spare were installed
- 2) Wheel bearings were checked and repacked with grease
- 3) Three antennae hubs were installed on the outside of the trailer
- 4) The propane tank was refilled
- 5) The trailers generator is working fine. A new cable start was installed under warranty. Total hours of operation – 12 hours

Special thanks goes to Randy Gottfred VA3OJ for the help in installing the tires, greasing the wheel bearings and installing the antennae hubs

The Intercity Shopping Center remained the sponsor and gave their donation

This year I hope to have new brake and trailer lights installed (LED's)

The trailer committee is still looking for a place to store it in the winter. We would like to find another sponsor and more donations

This report was written by Robert Hansen VE3RVA  
LARC Trailer Chairman

Here are some quick guidelines for HI-Q submissions.

-Pictures are great! I can handle or convert most any format, but jpegs (most likely the one your digital camera uses) are preferred. You can decrease the size for emailing if the files are very big. Picasa, available from Google for free will do this for you, as will a host of others such as Irfanview. So don't forget your camera when you go to that next club event.

- stories do not have to be long, complicated or sound like engineering notes. Folks ARE interested in what you are doing and appreciate simple stories. The best articles are often the shortest. Quick reviews of something like a new handheld or computer program for hams are great!

- don't bother doing any fancy formatting or use fancy fonts. I'm going to undo it all anyway to suck it into my pagesetting program (PagePlus X5 by Serif). Just use a simple word processing program such as notepad or wordpad and save it as a simple text file. MS Office (Word and Excel) files are ok too. Try Libreoffice (aka Openoffice) if you are looking for a free replacement for MS Office. If your article needs to be formatted in a certain way...talk to me. I'll even take submissions in PDF format but my language is taking the paint off the walls.

- I won't reprint stuff from other places unless it is very important or interesting and I can obtain permission from the source, but please do send me interesting web links.

-this newsletter is only as interesting as the stuff you send me!

Thanks to everyone who sends me stuff for HI-Q!



# February 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5 Freeze yer Buns Off
6	7	8	9 LARC Meeting at Confedera- tion College 1930 hrs.	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Family Day	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				Every Sunday ARES Net 1945 hrs VE3TBR



**Lakehead Amateur Radio Club**

**2011 / 2012 Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following questions:

- Are you currently a member of RAC? (YES/NO)
  - Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you interested in volunteering for ARES? (YES/NO)
- Are you interested in volunteering for public service events? (YES/NO)

**Type of membership**

**Regular (single) \$35.00** ☐  
**Family \$45.00** ☐  
**Associate \$20.00** ☐

**Amount received \$ \_\_\_\_\_ cash or cheque**